

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

MARCH/APRIL 1978 No 31 10p

WATER POURS IN IN 2 YEAR-OLD FLATS

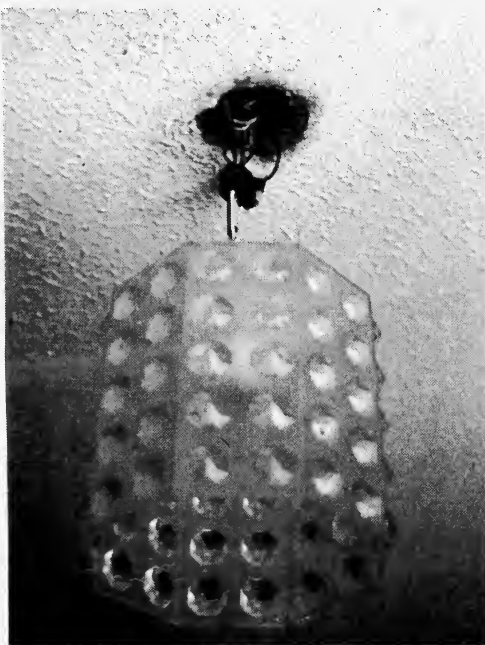
Cowper Road estate is a new council development in south Stoke Newington. Although parts have been let for almost four years, it was only completed just over two years ago. Most tenants are happy enough with the places that they have. However for some, this longed-for move to a new home has been a disaster.

The major problem is poor design, leading to excessive dampness in about thirty of the flats. The ground floor flats that look onto Spencer Grove are built in such a way that their roof is a balcony for the maisonettes above. Water seeps through the asphalt 'flat roof' causing damp and discolouration below. The water collects around light fittings and in some cases drips down the electrical wires. Hackney Council's solution, so far, has been to remove the light fitting and chip away the ceiling plaster. In these flats mould and mildew can grow in just a few days in cupboards, on curtains and behind furniture and the flats have a dank smell as you walk in the front door.

The council has been aware of these problems since 1975 and has accepted that, in this case, it is a design fault. Last November they

decided to rehouse everybody from these 1975 properties and agreed to spend £27,000 on urgent renovation work. Ten flats are still occupied

Council workmen have chipped plaster away, exposing light fittings.

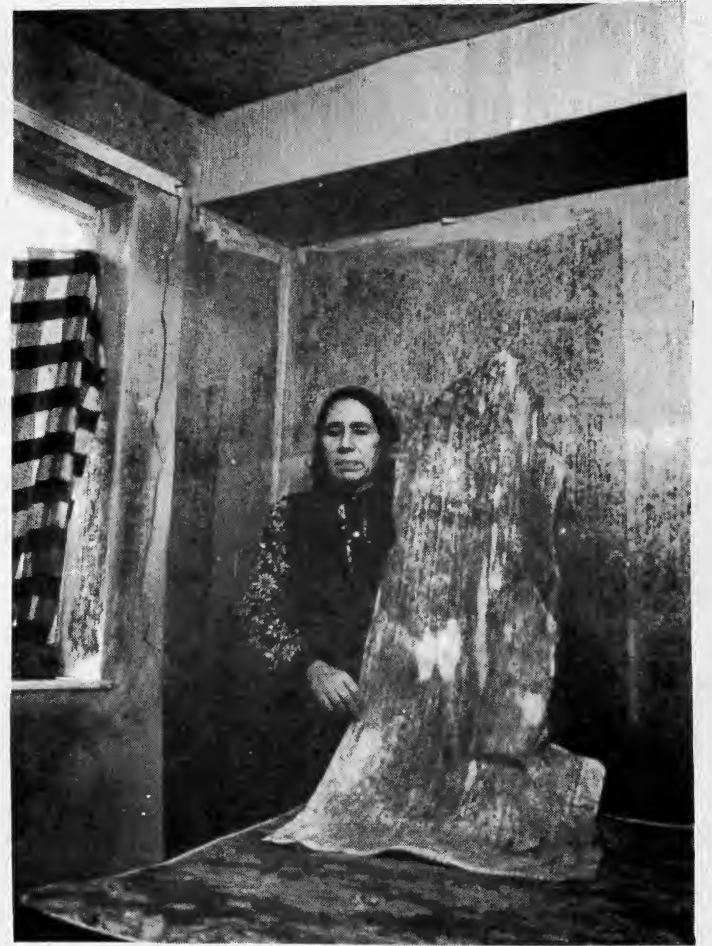


and there is no sign of work on the other nine. Many of these tenants are pensioners and a number in poor health which is aggravated by these damp conditions.

If it's not from the top - then it's coming from below!

Just around the corner from these flats are a number of three bedroom places. Here the damp is creeping up, carpets turn mouldy and fungus spreads up the walls and on to the furniture. Each day the tenants put newspaper on the floor to soak up the water which collects there. Here the council claim it is the tenants' fault for using paraffin heaters and causing condensation. However, an independent survey on the worst of these flats points the finger once again at bad design.

Over the road is a five storey block of sheltered accommodation for old people, the Lawns. This was finished only two years ago. They were built with flat roofs and once again most of the flats on the top floor already have water dripping in



Mrs Harding of Spencer Grove: damp has peeled the paper completely off her walls.

around the light fittings.

Many local people worked for Kirk and Kirk, the contractors who built the Cowper Road estate. They said then that the materials used were cheap and the buildings were poorly constructed.

The Tenants Association, which is only a few months old, and the Hackney Law Centre are both working to get Hackney Council to face up to its responsibilities, to rehouse people in the worst conditions, to pay compensation for damaged property and do proper repair work. Individual tenants plan to take the council to court either under Section 99 of the Public Health Act 1936 or Section 32 of the Housing Act 1961. Dampness is only one of the many problems and complaints that Cowper Road tenants have and they are going to make sure that people listen and take them seriously.

See p.2 for how you can take your landlord to court if you have the same problems as the tenants of Cowper Road.

LONDON TRANSPORT AXES HACKNEY BUS ROUTE

SAVE THE 256!

The people of Hackney need little reminding how badly served we are by public transport. Now London Transport is to make matters worse by cutting the 256 bus route which runs from Hackney to Chingford. The service will be axed in April but plans are now being made to fight the cut and demand that LT continue the service.

The campaign has been initiated by Waltham Forest Trades Council which is distributing a leaflet to factories along the 256 route. This leaflet calls workers using the route to demand inconvenience money and no loss of earnings for lateness, because they will have to use different buses.

This cut has been implemented without any consultation with passengers (as usual) and very little consultation with the transport unions whose members have to suffer the wrath of the inconvenienced public. This attitude is typical of the GLC and London Transport's disregard for those of us who need good public transport.

What makes matters worse is that the Tories, now in control of the

GLC, have planned a complete re-organisation of the bus service. This inevitably means a reduction in numbers of buses and routes. LT told HPP that "about 80" routes were being affected, in two stages, April and October. So the loss of Hackney's 256 route is just part of the general run down of public transport in London.

HPP has also been told (not by LT) that the Tory plan (Bus Plan 78) has been rejected by the Central Bus Conference of the Transport and General Workers Union. Now the individual garages - who all have one representative at the conference - are committed to fighting the Tory cuts.

In the long term, the plan sees a system of routes comprising inner and outer zones, avoiding long routes from the suburbs to central London. Thus long routes, like the notorious 30, from Hackney Wick to Roehampton, would be curtailed at the edge of the inner zone, so that the poor passengers would be forced to change onto another bus to get to the West End. And if they wanted to go on beyond the inner zone to Putney or

Roehampton then they would have to change again. So a journey along the full length of the route would involve two changes and three bus fares - maybe 75p in all for a journey which now costs 25p off-peak.

The interchange points will all be near BR or Tube stations so, presumably, the idea is to force more passengers onto the more expensive rail and Tube networks. In addition, where bus routes and Tube lines duplicate each other, one service will be axed.

The final insult for bus passengers is the news that yet another fare increase is planned for the summer.

If London's transport service is to be saved for the people who use it (and two-thirds of Hackney's residents do not have any access to a private car) then passengers and transport workers must join together to fight for better public transport.

HPP would like to hear from any residents of Hackney interested in campaigning against fare rises and cuts in services. Write to us c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

HPP apologises for the late publication of this issue. We will be resuming our usual monthly publication with the May issue which will be available from Friday 28 April.

inside

page 2
A WOMAN'S NEED FOR REFUGE
CASSLAND ROAD - HPP investigates the property companies.

page 3
SHORT NEWS

page 4
FACING UP TO RAPE
UNDER 5s MARCH

page 5
HACKNEY'S SOCIALIST STRATEGY
GLC SQUEEZE HOUSING AGAIN

page 6
WHATS ON IN HACKNEY

page 7
INFORMATION

page 8
HACKNEY GOOD BEER GUIDE
CROSSWORD
RECIPES

CASHland Road

Further investigation by HPP into the sale of the Sir John Cass estate in South Hackney has turned up important new information concerning the companies and people involved.

Research at Companies House has revealed that Silix Holdings - a name familiar to many tenants - is not registered with the Department of Trade. The new owners of some fifty houses is a property company called Kingscastle formed in the middle of last year, presumably for the express purpose of buying these houses. The company was set up by agents based in Temple Avenue, EC4, who specialise in providing off-the-peg companies and after incorporation was transferred to the present owners of Kingscastle, Mr Colin Tett, director, and Mr Derek Shukla, secretary. Its registered offices are at 57 Glebe Street, W4 - the home of Mr Tett who is also a director of some twenty-six other companies, mostly in the property business.

The houses bought by Kingscastle are numbers 9-39, 20-54 Cassland Road and 6 and 9 Meynall Crescent. They have also bought the triangle of land bounded by Cassland Road, Lauriston Road and Terrace Road (which includes houses 2-16a Cassland Road, and 38-44 Terrace Road). Several houses have already been offered for sale in Cassland Road at prices up to £20,000 and the triangle of land mentioned above is currently up for sale. To buy these houses, Kingscastle raised a loan of £240,000 earlier this year from the Southern Trust Limited.

With about 35 houses fetching up

to £20,000 each plus the triangle of land suitable for development, it is not difficult to calculate the probable profits - a minimum of 200% or in cash terms £500,000 on an investment of £240,000, assuming that Kingscastle succeed in removing sitting tenants. It is not surprising that Kingscastle can afford to offer tenants a paltry £2,000 to leave when they stand to make this much.

Tenants of the houses sold to Kingscastle have no idea of what is happening and have been told nothing. Some of them have lived there for over sixty years and at ages of 80 or more they have no wish to move. One or two have been taken to view other accommodation, usually much smaller and at some distance away. This can only spell the break-up of this closely-knit community of people who have known each other for many years and often all their lives.

It is quite clear that, despite the collapse of the property boom some years ago, there are still huge profits to be made at the expense of tenants and their community.

Furthermore, had the council bought these houses at a price of about £5,000 each - less than one third of a new council house - and rehabilitated them then the community would have been preserved and these fine houses kept for Hackney people.

The World of Property Housing Trust who will be rehabilitating the remaining part of the estate has informed HPP that it has now become a registered housing association.

Suing for your rights...



Tenants of Cowper Road have recently taken court action against the Council for failing to improve poor conditions in their houses. If your house is in bad condition, read on!

What should you do if you live in poor housing conditions? If your housing conditions are quite bad, they must be considered as a 'statutory nuisance'. The law says that it is the duty of the council to ensure that its district is kept free from statutory nuisance.

Statutory nuisance refers to conditions which can be prejudicial to health or a nuisance. 'Prejudicial to health' means conditions which affect yours and your family's health. 'Nuisance' means conditions which affect your family and others.

The type of condition that may lead to the housing being a statutory nuisance are dampness, defective sanitary fittings, windows and doors, leaking rainwater pipes, gutters and roofs, defective drainage and plasterwork and general disrepair.

If you live in private accommodation and you have told your landlord and he has not carried out any repairs, you should complain to the Environmental Health Department, in writing and keep a copy.

If your flat, or house, is very damp and you are using a paraffin

heater the Health Officer may say that the heater is causing the dampness. (This is because for every gallon of paraffin burned it gives off into the atmosphere the equivalent of one pint of water.) If the room in which the heater is is well ventilated there may be a building fault that causes dampness to occur. (Get advice.)

If you are a council tenant it is unlikely that the Environmental Health Officer will take any action other than write a letter to the Housing Department. However, if you feel that your landlord, council or private, is not doing anything about the statutory nuisance, and has been given details of it, you can take out your own summons against the landlord for allowing the nuisance to exist. Under Section 99 of the 1936 Public Health Act you may also be able to claim compensation for any damage to your own property or any inconvenience and discomfort you suffered due to the repairs not being done. Get advice from your local advice centre (see page 7 for a complete list of advice centres in Hackney.)

Hackney Women's Aid Refuge is due to re-open in mid-April. Because of council prevarications (as reported in earlier issues of HPP), the Refuge has now been closed for a year. Below we print the experiences of Ann, a woman from Hackney, who eventually found help at Islington Women's Aid. After her experiences she is amazed that councils do not always encourage and do not give more assistance to Women's Aid Refuges. During the past year countless women have suffered violence from their husbands, as Ann did, and have found themselves with nowhere to go and nobody to turn to for help. In many cases the authorities with whom one comes in contact are either ignorant of, or hostile to the Refuges.

Now that Hackney Women's Aid Refuge is re-opening Hackney women will no longer have to go outside their area to get help. However, until the importance of Refuges is recognised by those who have power over our personal lives and women are referred to the Refuges as a matter of course, women will continue to suffer needlessly and in silence.

Women NEED Refuges

At 2.30 one night in January Ann arrived at Stoke Newington police station with a large bruise on the side of her face. She had been suffering both physical and mental abuse from her husband for some months, and that night it became more than she could bear. She spent four hours at the police station. When the police rang the Social Services emergency number, they were told to wait for a return call that never came. Eventually the police drove her back to her flat in Cazenove Road and left her there.

Two weeks later Ann went to the Social Services even more desperate than before. As her husband refused to give her any money she had been forced to sell her two year-old son's cot in order to buy some food for him and herself. Later, when this was brought up in court, she pointed out to the judge that it was preferable to have a decently fed child sharing her bed rather than a starving child in his own cot. The judge conceded the point. This time somebody at Social Services gave Ann a telephone number. She rang up and discovered it was Islington Women's Aid Refuge. She went there immediately with her son and has been there for the last nine weeks. She is now preparing to move back into her flat, having won a court order against her husband.

Ann said of that time: "There was no way out for me. I needed time to think. Now the aggression and the tension I was feeling have gone, and my son, who used to scream most of the day and slept only three or four hours a night, is much calmer and less frightened."

When Ann arrived at the refuge she didn't know what to expect and was nervous of living with a group of women. The workers there helped her sort out her Social Security and helped her through the court case. There was one point during the case when it looked as if things were going

against her, but when she talked about the health and safety of her son the case swung in her favour. Ann remarked that it was obvious one was in a stronger position if one had children. It is much more difficult for a battered childless woman to win a case against her husband.

As for the council, Ann said: "It was a waste of time going to them. Although I've been on the housing list with my son for 18 months, I'm still at the bottom of it. In their view, as long as I am still living with my husband, however much he batters me, I'm not homeless. And as there was nowhere else to go I had no alternative but to stay with him."

Neither the police nor her Health Visitor offered any suggestion as to what Ann could do. It was only on her second plea for help to Social Services that she was given the number of Islington Women's Aid. She says now: "The conditions of the Refuge didn't matter. I and my son share a room with one other woman and her child, but I'd stay there even if we slept 20 to a room. It gives you the time to think and it gives you the opportunity to talk to other women and realise your problems aren't unique. I really needed that moral support. I don't know what I would've done if I hadn't gone there. I think I might have gone mad."



Ann was sent to Islington Women's Aid because Hackney Women's Aid has been closed since April last year after a fire that gutted the building. Women's Aid Refuges do not turn desperate women away, but very often there is so little room that a place somewhere else has to be found for them. "People don't realise the importance of the refuges," Ann said. "I can't understand why local councils don't give more assistance to refuges in their area. In many cases women just need a breathing-space, time to recover from their husband's assaults. Often the only alternative is to have your children taken into care, and not only is that terrible for the women and children, but it costs the council huge amounts of money. As long as the problem of domestic violence exists women need somewhere to go where they can escape from it. I'm now able to start a decent life again with my son."

If anyone has any furniture or toys in good condition and would like to donate them to Hackney Women's Aid, please contact Sophie, tel 986 8111 ex 57, or leave a message.

COUNCIL VACANCIES

Good news for tenants who are taking Hackney Council to court under Section 99 of the Public Health Act. Because of the large number of cases which are now in hand, the borough solicitor has requested three extra assistants in the legal department. So you have more chance of getting your case heard.

But wouldn't it be a better idea to employ more people on the housing department to make sure that repairs are done more promptly so that tenants don't need to take the Council to court? You might well think so. Tenants who come forward and who are prepared to fight a court order to get their homes into liveable condition are just the tip of the iceberg.

The Council is also preparing to appoint an officer specifically to deal with complaints to the local Ombudsman.

It is now illegal to DEMONSTRATE

At the moment there is a ban on all marches in London, introduced by the Home Secretary for the duration of two months. It affects almost everyone even Friends of the Earth who had carefully organised a big march against Nuclear Power, but had to cancel everything until the ban is lifted, after much publicity.

Ironically, this measure was introduced to prevent a fascist demonstration by the National Front taking place in Ilford during the by-elections there.

Last December there was a Black Aid demonstration outside the German Embassy about the deaths of Raspe, Muller, Ennslin and Baader. Evidence makes it seem increasingly unlikely that they committed suicide, but were in fact murdered. The Demo was about that and also to demand the release of the surviving prisoner and their Lawyer who is also in prison.

2000 police escorted the 250 demonstrators. Although they had arranged a route, it seems the police changed their minds and wouldn't let them past. Eight people got arrested and are now being tried at Horseferry Road Magistrates court. It seems that the two foreigners will be kicked out and sent back to their respective countries as well as being fined.

Don't be too surprised if stating your opinion becomes permanently illegal!

WHOOPING HICCUP

The recent whooping cough immunisation scare has resulted in a dramatic fall in the number of immunisations for all infant diseases in the Borough of Hackney.

This was revealed by Dr Ann Brown, principal physician for child health in the borough, speaking on Wednesday 22 February at Barton House Health Centre, Stoke Newington, at a public meeting organised by the Stoke Newington Health Group.

Of a sample of children born in June, July and August 1976 only 14% of the possible immunisation courses had been completed by the end of last year, she revealed. Previously up to 80% could have completed their immunisation.

The reason for the fall-off lay not only in the fears of the parents, but also in the cautious attitude of the doctors, who would not vaccinate if the child gave even the slightest indication of being unwell at the time, and who have asked the parents to return with the child, sometimes a number of times.

The Stoke Newington Health Group is a collection of local people interested in all matters concerned with people's health. This was the first of a series of meetings on various health issues. If you would like to help or have any ideas for future activities, please come along or contact: Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N16 (254 3277) evenings, or Edwina Welham (800 4853) daytime.

EMPTY HOUSES

In the last issue of Hackney People's Press it was reported that a recent survey by the Housing Action Group discovered more than 2,000 empty properties in the borough. It was felt that many had been missed and that more information should be collected on empty properties. In February the Action Group surveyed more carefully the houses in Rectory Ward - following a previous survey done in 1976 when 92 dwellings were empty. In all 157 houses or parts of houses were empty; only 35 had agents' 'For Sale' boards. Although full information about the houses is difficult to get, the surveyors found 67 whole houses empty, and were satisfied that at least 78 dwellings were habitable without needing major repairs.

It is quite obvious that the blight empty houses, in this ward at least, is an increasing one. Rectory Ward contains the Leswin Road Housing Action Area. If the Council had its priorities right we should be seeing rapid improvements in these areas. All we seem to be finding is more empty houses.

At the moment the Housing Action Group is hoping to contact any other groups or organisations that may wish to use in some capacity property that is empty. Meanwhile the Housing Action Group have recently been awarded a grant from the Nuffield Foundation to look more fully into empty property in the borough, and extend the survey to the five other wards surveyed in the 1974 survey - Defoe, Queensbridge, Northwold, Clissold and Chatham.

To be able to survey such a large area will require more people than we have in the Group at present. The members of the Action Group believe that it is time to end the scandal of empty property in Hackney and that we must first discover the true extent of the problem. If you are prepared to help us, or if you know of any information which may be of use, please write to the Hackney Housing Action Group, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 or contact Neil Martinson or Jon Webber (254 9632).

ARTS UMBRELLA

A meeting of Arts groups in Hackney was held on March 9 and it was decided to set up an umbrella organisation (affiliated to Hackney Community Link-Up) which would represent the Arts in dealings with the Council and other bodies. Another meeting for this embryo organisation will be held on Tuesday 11 April at 7.30 in Hoxton Hall.

NEW DATE - 29th

March against
**NUCLEAR
POWER**
WITH
Hackney F.O.E.

On 29 April, Friends of the Earth, with many other environmental and peace organisations, are organising a demonstration in Trafalgar Square to show the strength of public opposition to the proposals. (It has been postponed from its original date of 19 March because of the two month ban on political demonstrations).

If the plant is built, plutonium will be separated from spent nuclear fuel and returned to other countries. Any country having plutonium returned to it can take the decision to build nuclear bombs.

We don't need nuclear power. All our energy needs can be met from other sources, combined with measures to improve the efficiency of energy use.

To stop the proposed expansion of the Windscale plant we need your support.

For more information contact Hackney Friends of the Earth, c/o Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road N16, tel 802 0122.

COMMUNITY INDUSTRY

Community Industry employs young people between the ages of 16 and 17 on building and decorating projects. Since 1 November last year, Hackney has been included in the scheme, and is part of the area which also includes Camden and Islington.

Most of the current projects are in Camden or Islington, but it is possible that transport can be arranged by CI from Hackney.

They are going to begin a soft toy workshop in Dalson, but there are no firm plans to begin other projects in Hackney, as there is currently a 12-month waiting list for projects.

The main reason that there is a long waiting list for projects, and why only one project is being started in Hackney is that in the three months since the borough has been included in the scheme only six young people have applied to work under it. At the moment there are 65 vacancies. D G Halsey, the area organiser of the scheme said that it was on a 6 month trial in Hackney and that if the vacancies don't get taken up, then they will be offered to another area instead of Hackney.

For more information ring 278 1514.

NF IS NF

Once more the National Front have shown what they meant by Martin Webster's boast that they will "kick their way into the headlines." Three racist attacks have been recently reported to HPP. All have been by groups of young thugs who have used knives and bottles to beat up black youths walking through Hackney on their own. The attackers then roar away in getaway cars, following a pattern that they set up in the Brick Lane area when they beat up single Asians walking home alone. Self-defence vigilante groups have now been set up in some areas of Hackney and the attacks have ceased.

Hackney Youth Workers Group and Hackney Teachers Association have both held special meetings about the growing violence of the NF. The Youth Workers Group were told at the their meeting that the "time for talking has finished, the time for action has come." These words may sound dramatic but should be considered with the pronouncements of a recent NF election candidate who said "When we come to power, which we will, those cries so loud in protest now will be silent."

Various material useful in fighting the NF menace is available from Workers with Youth Against Fascism, Box 1933, 182 Upper Street, N.1. This includes many different leaflets and stickers, twelve types of posters and four types of badges.

Workers with Youth Against Fascism is organising a day workshop on "The NF and Young People" on Sunday 16th April at Caxton House, St Johns Way, N.19.

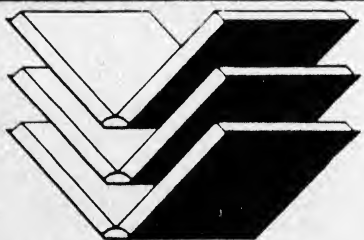
On Saturday 22nd April Christians against Racism and Fascism are holding a multiracial celebration in Hyde Park. STOP PRESS!

As we go to press we hear that a massive march is planned by the Anti-Nazi League for Sunday 30 April. This will go from Trafalgar Square to Victoria Park in Hackney and will end with a rally and concert. The Tom Robinson Band will be topping the bill at the concert. Full details in our next issue.

FLEET WORKSHOP

The old Fleetwood School in the corner of Northwold Road and Stoke Newington High Street is now the Fleet Workshop, for unemployed young people. If you are out of work and feel that you're wasting your time then you can learn how to acquire new skills, or improve your Maths or English. Contact Julia Masson, Fleetwood School, Stoke Newington High St, N16, 254 4794.

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FACING UP TO RAPE

On Saturday 4 March a woman was raped in her home in Dalston. The man threatened to murder her so she would be "all his, forever". It was a six-hour ordeal during which she pissed herself in terror. When he finally left - at 4.30 am - she had a bath, thereby destroying "evidence".

She was advised that she did not have a good case because she let him in the house. Like most women who are raped, she knew the man. She did not have a good case because she was not black and blue, she was advised. She did not resist violently because she thought she would be murdered. (She is a gentle, slight person, less than five feet tall.) She is a separated mother of two who has a boyfriend who sometimes stays the night. She did not have a good case.

Up to this point this is a very ordinary rape situation. The difference is this: Jenny (a pseudonym) decided to tell people about it. Lots of people. There was a meeting of her friends, many of whom knew Len (also a pseudonym), the rapist. All of them were concerned for her safety.

Even if there was a slight possibility that there might be a ruling against a rapist in British law courts there were other complications: Len is black. If he got done, he would be done as a black man violating white man's property, not for violating another person, a woman. If he got done he would get chucked inside with a lot of other sexist blokes who would only reinforce his attitudes. If he went to court and didn't get done he would really be laughing up his sleeve.

Len is on probation. He has a court injunction against him to stay away from his wife, who he knifed. He is known to have raped two other women, without repercussions. Everyone feels something must be done. There are various possibilities. In Paris last year a woman who was raped at gunpoint agreed afterwards to meet the man another night. (He told her he "loved" her after raping her.) She met him in a bar. When they came out they were followed by her friends. They went to a cafe where there was a backroom they could use. The room was filled up with her friends and concerned people.

The rapist sat in the middle of the room on a chair. The woman spilled out all her rage and hurt and disgust at him. She screamed

and spat in his face. After he had listened to what everyone had to say he was taken home, where he lived with his mother and she was told what he had done.

That group of people discussed what they were going to do. One of their ideas was to strip him naked and paint "rapist" on him and leave him chained to a lamp post in the centre of town.

We discussed the possibility of Jenny decoying Len away to a similar sort of situation. People felt he was too volatile to be restrained like that. We discussed painting graffiti around his estate saying "Len Matthews is a rapist" and "Rape will be revenged" a tactic used successfully in Sydney, Australia. Some people felt calling him a rapist might actually glamorize what he'd done. People were wary of the situation becoming a sort of gang warfare and of the possibility of the National Front using it as part of its racist campaign. The main thing was to protect Jenny and to deter him from raping even more women.

We decided to visit him at his home. He lives with his sister, her child and his brother and finishes work in the early afternoon while his sister is at work and the child at play school. We sussed out his address.

The group included three people who knew him and three who didn't. We were five women and one man. One black woman. Two middle-aged people. We arrived in the afternoon. He answered the door and we walked in. He was yelling at us that we couldn't just come into his house and was trying to bar the passageway. Someone said he seemed to feel he could force his way into Jenny's house and her body. He went into his kitchen and came out with a knife which he was persuaded to put down. His brother was trying to calm him down.

Len said: "I have no need to rape Jenny. I can have her when I want." He repeated many times that she had let him into the house. He was extremely agitated and angry. He yelled and pushed at all the women, particularly the one who was black. At one point he turned on Maggie, who knows him, and yelled: "Do you think I am a monster or something?" and everyone yelled back "Yes." (Maggie admitted later that her knees were trembling.) But she really



RECLAIMING THE NIGHT

In November last year several hundred women took over the streets of Soho and the West End of London demanding that women should be free to walk the streets without the risk of being molested or abused. The women painted and wrote over sexist posters and window displays and shouted back when men shouted at them. (photo Angela Phillips IFL)

stood up to him.

We told him his probation officer had been informed and that his name was down at the Women's Crisis Centre and if any complaints were made against him we would know - we would believe the woman and there would be trouble.

I wasn't all that convinced that the meeting had had the desired effect but people who know him thought he had been really pretty rattled. Some of us are still worried that other women don't know about him. We considered sending a leaflet to all the women on his estate saying how he has attacked women and to beware. Particularly since he is involved in "community" work I feel he has a good opportunity to inflict similar treatment on other women.

Some places the women have printed

up lists of men who have raped and flyposted them around the place.

Other names have been added by hand. Some women have gone to where the man works and told his co-workers what has happened. Sometimes women get on the bus or train the man takes to work every day and tells everyone what he has done.

We don't know what our next step should be. One thing we want to do is to find places for CounterAct to perform their play "She Asked For It" which is really excellent. It is a very stimulating play about rape followed by a discussion. If you want to help with this or know where it can be put on (there are only three people, barely any sets or props) please contact the Anti-Rape Squad, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

Under Fives March

In Hackney there are about 2,500 under fives living with one parent and over 3,500, both of whose parents go out to work for longer hours than are covered by single-session playgroups and nursery classes. Yet there are only 484 day nursery places and almost no support service for childminders.

Hackney Under Fives is a voluntary organisation of parents, workers and others who are concerned about the appalling lack of provision for children of under school age and are campaigning actively to change this.

However, despite intensive activity on the part of Hackney Under Fives, the Council have not come up with much: one new nursery for 50 children opened in 1977, four more still at the planning stage and a slight increase in grants for three or four community nursery projects.

With Council elections at the beginning of May, HUF feel that now is the time to publicise their



efforts and push the Council into an awareness of their neglect of under fives. They are planning a deputation to the Social Services Committee at the Town Hall at 7.30 pm on 4 April. As Council Committee meetings are open to the public, they are asking for as many people as possible to come and support them.

A MARCH for Under Fives is being organised for Saturday 20 May, assembling at 10.30 am at Ridley Road and marching via Dalston Lane and the Narrow Way to St John's Churchyard, where there will be speeches at 1.30 pm.

As well as asking all individuals to support the march, the HUF is asking tenants' associations, trade union branches and community groups to officially sponsor it.

For further information and offers of help please contact Hackney Under Fives at 254 9145 or through Centerprise 136 Kingsland High St E8.

HEALTH IN HACKNEY

The NHS and how to make it work for you

HEALTH IN HACKNEY is a FREE guide to all the facilities offered by the Health Service in Hackney, and is full of information.

It is published by the City & Hackney Community Health Council and is available from them at 210 Kingsland Road, E2, or from Centerprise, Chats Palace, Wally Foster Centre and other shops and community centres round the borough.

MORE THAN 100 PAGES - GET ONE FREE!

A Socialist Strategy for Hackney

Over the last few weeks the Hackney branch of the Workers Educational Association have been running a regular Sunday morning class at the Labour and Trades Hall, Dalston Lane. The classes are organised as part of a course called 'A Socialist Strategy for Hackney'. The course covered the issues of local government finance and structure, housing, planning, employment, social services, leisure/services/sport and a summary class on general strategy.

At each session various speakers who are familiar with the topic have led the discussion. It may be that the course will lead on to further discussion and debate about the situation in Hackney and how it can be improved. The course has had an average attendance of thirty people each Sunday morning. Some of the issues covered have pointed to a serious lack of concern, in the past, for the area. This has been caused either through a lack of finance or lack of will to obtain the money to meet the need.

Hackney has the lowest "rates" in inner London and consequently does not spend money freely in meeting the needs of the area.

The concern for restraint in the expenditure on essential services or necessary officers in the local

authority has allowed a situation to exist whereby Government money coming into the borough has been



minimal. (We have not had the plans, ideas or enthusiasm to take up grants and other aid available.) It would appear that those responsible

have adopted or created an almost scrooge-like attitude to spending, where to spend could be in the best interest of the people of the area.

An increase in the "rates" would mean more money available. The two important factors that follow this is whether the people of the area would be, individually, worse off financially and secondly how best could the extra money be spent and to what advantage. Although Hackney has the lowest household income in the GLC area it also has an unacceptably low take-up of Rate Rebates (Hackney rates 105 out of 108 areas studied by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities). The Government's Rate Support Grant is a cash handout to help local authorities with low income and high need. Need is recognised by the way a local authority spends money on essential services. Thus the more money spent on needs, the higher the grant from the Government.

Hackney has recently been given Partnership status (under the Dept. of Environment Policy for Inner Urban Areas). The essential ingredient in partnership is a requirement by the local authority to involve voluntary community organisations and groups in its planning. The borough's Planning Department is grossly under-

staffed - a borough plan does not exist so everything is done on a piecemeal basis.

Hopefully with the need to produce relevant plans because of partnership and the requirement to involve the people of the area, things could start moving to improve the condition of the borough.

It would seem that the improvement in the borough's financial state - or perhaps, more important, a change of attitude by those responsible to recognise that the best way to meet the needs of the area is by spending money, as opposed to this paternalistic attitude of caring about the individual's needs by levying a low "rate" and providing very little by way of services in return.

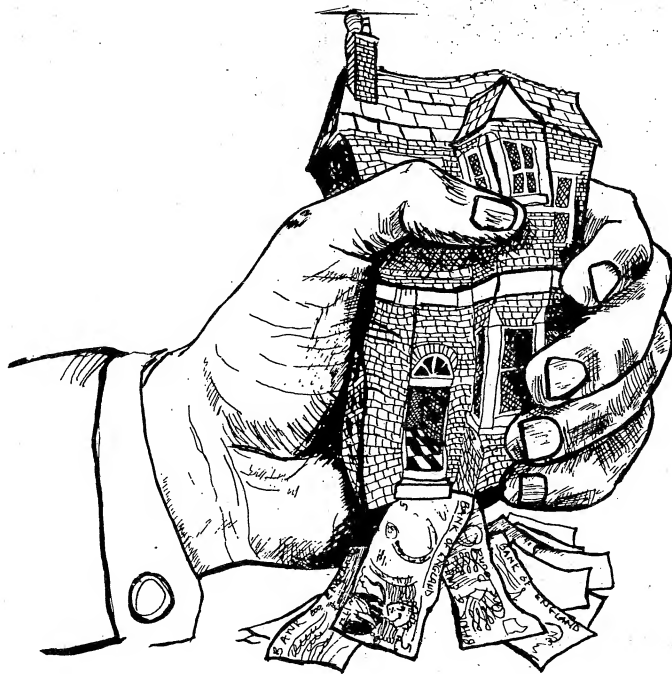
The course has highlighted that in all areas employment, housing, planning, the structure of local government, its finances, Hackney has a potential to develop.

The direction of that development and the speed with which it happened is now, because of partnership, something that the people who live in the borough can help to determine. The course and what succeeds it is about providing the background information to make for a positive involvement of all concerned.

GLC squeeze housing once again

The Tory GLC's "active encouragement to people to make their own contribution by offering them a real stake in a better environment" enters a new phase of lunacy with the announcement of its latest scheme to increase owner-occupation in London. The much reported homesteading scheme where GLC property in need of extensive improvements was offered for sale through a lottery has now officially collapsed after only 2 lotteries which distributed a mere 500 properties. The Council had voted recently to stop acquiring houses from the private sector, but it seems that the latest scheme reverses this decision. During 1977 15,000 people registered an interest in homesteading. For those 14,500 disappointed applicants, if they still want anything to do with the GLC, their new homesteading plan is as follows.

1. Search the streets for a house that has been empty for at least three months, and is in good condition without being able to enter.
2. Find out who owns the house and if they want to sell it. The price must be less than £15,000.
3. Tell the GLC about the house and then they will survey it. The house must need at least £2,000 worth of repairs to a maximum of £5,000.
4. If you still want the house the GLC will then buy it and sell it to you immediately on a 1-3 year deferred mortgage, depending on the amount of repairs that are needed.
5. Then apply for an Improvement Grant from the Council, which immediately increases the expense because of planning requirements. Or the GLC may loan you the money.
6. When you've finished repairs you start paying the mortgage off on the original price. The only other qualifications are



that you must have been living or working in London for 12 of the last 18 months, and that you are a first time buyer.

The simplicity of the scheme can only be matched by the simple-mindedness of those who thought up this latest dead duck.

Discovering who owns a property is always a difficult task, and sometimes quite impossible. Many

owners and absentee landlords are reluctant to come out into the open. Assuming that you fulfil steps 1. and 2. above, it is quite likely that, not being an expert in surveying and costs of housing repairs, you may have chosen a house which doesn't fulfil stage 3. Bad luck. Go back to the beginning and start again. Even if you are lucky you then have to apply for a

housing improvement grant (5.). Don't hold up too many hopes if you live in Hackney however. The grants are paid out of a block allocation recently announced by the Government. The allocation was made according to how much each local authority bid for: Hackney bid for £29 million and received £24 million. Islington, a borough which shares a lot of Hackney's problems bid for £54 million and received £44 million.

The Housing Improvement Programme money allocated is to cover new house building, slum clearance and rehabilitation and acquisition of existing properties. Despite not really having any housing policy as such, it seems likely that the Council will have some ideas worked out about how to spend the money. Those applying under the GLC scheme will be low on the list of priorities. There is always the GLC to return to to ask for another loan to do the repairs, but this money will need to be repaid before the repairs are finished - just in time to start paying off the mortgage(6)!

That such a scheme is unthought out, unrealistic and inappropriate would be an understatement. With a Council like Hackney who seem totally unable to come to terms with its housing problems, the scheme is a non-starter, to make any significant difference to the scandal of our empty houses in the borough requires a much greater effort from our own housing department.

Meanwhile confidential GLC documents (published in London Free Press) have revealed that the GLC has nearly 4,000 vacant houses ready for letting. This includes a complete new development at Balfrance Road in Hackney Wick and a large number of private houses in various parts of Hackney. The Hackney Housing Action Group is now campaigning for these to be used immediately.

April in

HACKNEY

Events

Sunday 26 March, 2.00 pm
FREE FORM FUN EVENTS
The Mudchute, Pier Street, Isle of Dogs, E14. Admission free.

Monday 27 March, 2.30 pm
Homerton Grove Adventure Playground, Homerton Grove, E9. Admission free.

27 March-8 April
CARNIVAL AT CHAT'S PALACE
will start with a FREE FORM kids show on the 27th, and end with a carnival procession rounded off with a disco.
In between, the playscheme will concentrate on the making of pieces for the procession. A wide range of craft skills will be used by the children to produce carnival heads and canopies. There will be a video project in the second week, which will cover all aspects of the carnival.
Brooksby's Walk, Homerton High St E9.

Good Friday - 24 March, 2.00 pm
EASTER BAZAAR
Lots of inexpensive household goods and gifts from China will be on sale; also books and magazines from and about China, including children's books. Admission 5p, free tea.
Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, E1.

Saturday 29 April, 7.30 pm
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL
Admission free. A chance to taste a wide range of culinary delights cooked by local people. Indian, Kosher and West Indian food, plus international entertainment.
Organised by local people with East London SACU providing Chinese food. 20p per portion.
Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, E1.

Saturday 29 April
HACKNEY FESTIVAL OF SOCIALISM
Music, children's entertainment, exhibitions, political discussions, films, theatre and drinks, hundreds of interesting stalls. 50p adults, 10p children. Fleetwood School, Stoke Newington High Street, N16.

New Events at 1 Cazenove Road, N16, tel 806 6664.
CHEAP KITCHEN
A vegetarian meal for 40p on Wednesdays, 12-2.00 pm and Fridays, 7-9.00 pm.

YOGA AND RELAXATION CLASS FOR WOMEN
A new class starts on Thursday evenings in March. There is also a relaxation class for older women every Monday afternoon from 2-3.30 pm.

ADULT LITERACY
A new class is starting very soon.

meetings

30 March
SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE
Support the April boycott. Speakers: Pedro Cornejo (Chilean TUC) and Brian Nicholson (TGWU) at 8.00pm.
Trades hall, Dalston Lane, E8.

7 April
FEEDBACK discussion about the April exhibition of photographs in Centerprise about Life for young people in inner London.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:
3 Housing development
4 Social services
5 Library and Amenities
6 Administration
10 Accident prevention
12 Finance
26 General Council Meeting

4 April
HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
Local people concerned with improving services for young kids.
8.00pm at Centerprise.

13 April
HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION
The committee meets to discuss Public Transport and traffic arrangements for Hackney people. For details contact: Tony Jacobs: 3 Hockley house. Morning Lane. E9. tel. 986 2303

Exhibitions

1-30 April
FEEDBACK an exhibition of words and photographs about life for young people in Kentish Town.
at Centerprise

14-28 April
SHIPIDO INDIAN CRAFTS
Woven and printed materials from Peru. On show at the Woodberry Down School.

Until 28 May
THE CAT'S WHISKERS
An exhibition of Domestic Wireless equipment from 1898 to 1946 at the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland road. E2.



Film

From 2 April
STAR WARS at Dalston Odeon

From 3 April
JAWS at Kenninghall cinema

From 9 April
THE GREATEST plus
UPTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT
at the RIO.

From 19 April
PRESSURE at the Astra

4 April
A WOMAN, A FAMILY
a film about China
at Dame Colet House,
Ben Johnson road, E1.

Theatre

31 March
A TALL STORY
By Soap Box Theatre, Centerprise
136 Kingsland High St E8

21 March-1 April
MAD MICKS AND ENGLISHMEN
By Eamonn McCann
A satirical play about Northern Ireland. Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, E1 (nr Aldgate tube)

3-8 April
BABY GRAND
A musical review from South Wales
Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street.

6-7 April
THE ITALIAN STRAW HAT
By the Strolling Players, Curtain Theatre, Commercial St E1

7-8 April
THE GOLDEN PATHWAY ANNUAL
By the Hoxton Drama Group,
Hoxton Hall, N1

Till 8 April
THEATRE ROYAL FOLLIES MUSICAL
VARIETY SHOW, Theatre Royal,
Stratford.

13-15 April
FRANKENSTEIN
By Tim Kelly with the Hackney Players at the Summit Estate Hall, E5, at 7.30 pm

21 April
FRANKENSTEIN
By the Hackney Players, Hoxton Hall.

22 April
FRANKENSTEIN
BY Tim Kelly with the Hackney Players at the Trelawney estate, Paragon Road, E9 at 7.30 pm.

25-29 April
FLEMMY
By the Sidewalk Theatre. Half Moon.

28 April
IN OUR WAY
Women's Theatre Group, Hoxton Hall.

Music

2 April
THE YACHTS plus SWIFT
Benefit for the ABC Defence Cttee
at Dingwall's, Camden Lock, NW1.

31 March
FOLK EVENING
With the Cambridge Chile Dance Group and Venceremos and others. Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1

14 April
SAM HALL
An evening of Cockney songs with Mike Peake.

Every Friday
FOLK CLUB
at the Duke of Wellington

Every Saturday and Sunday night
THE SUGAWN FOLK BAND

A 'NEW WAVE' VENUE is to open in Dalston sometime this month, above the Four Aces Club in Dalston Lane. The Vibrators are mentioned as a tentative early booking so keep your ears open for the exact date.

As you can see, there is more space here. From now on this page will carry a regular list of what is going on each month. If you know about any events of general interest, leave a note for us at Centerprise with the title you think it should come under put at the top.

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.
For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 14th APRIL

Write to Hackney People's Press, Box 1, c/o Centerprise,
136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from
10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday
10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and
visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and
neighbourhood care in N5.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF
OLD PEOPLE**
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at
black people.
Tuesday 10am–10pm
Thursday 10am–4.30pm
Friday 10am–10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any
problems.
Monday–Friday 10am–6pm (open until 8.30pm on
Tuesdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing
to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 }
986 9146 } (office hours)

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS
ASSOCIATIONS**
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants
throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries
for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate,
Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE,
17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

**HACKNEY COMMUNITY HOUSING ACTION
GROUP**
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty
for long periods in Hackney and working to get
them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136
Kingsland High Street, E8.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM
East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett
Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for
advancement of education in constructive penal
and social policies.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday
at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche
available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for
details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other
Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972
for details.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION
c/o 35 Finnere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

Women

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8.
Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE
1 Cazenove Road, N16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop,
beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation,
consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative
medicine, self-defence. Further information from
806 6664. All women welcome.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias
Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or
Harriet 254 6208.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S
SUB COMMITTEE**
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact
Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women
and men welcome.

Health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH
COUNCIL**
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2.
Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice,
takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open
meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm.
Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive
FREE guide to health facilities and services in the
area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all
families in district with a handicapped child.
Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5.
Tel. 808 8438.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at
home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

Community Centres

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6.30pm.
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday–Friday 10am–10pm
Saturday 10am–6.30pm.
FACILITIES:
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and
contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters
can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in
General Office.
ADVICE CENTRE:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays
6.30–7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.
READING CENTRE:
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact
Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.
PUBLISHING PROJECT:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.
Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.
YOUTH PROJECT:
Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups etc.
Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and
Wednesday evenings. Contact Oliver Flavin.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.
Community Centre with many activities:
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every
weekday 9am–5pm.
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:
Every Monday at 7pm.
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group,
pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth
club for 5–8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance
classes.
See also **ADVICE** and **NEIGHBOURHOOD**
ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

THE FACTORY
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green
School). Tel. 249 3066.
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes,
English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in
group (creche provided), after school club, arts and
crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an
Indian dance class.
Contact them for further details.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help for all community problems.
Cooking, washing, creche facilities.
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays,
1.30–3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays,
5.30–7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating.
Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
Contact them for further information.
Also see **ADVICE** and **Neighbourhood English**
Classes and **Gingerbread** under **COMMUNITY**
GROUPS listings on this page.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4901.
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal
advice centre, after-school junior club and
writers' workshop as well as evening classes in
shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts,
old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's
Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama
Group.
Many events take place in the theatre each
month—see the **EVENTS** AND **MEETINGS**
section. Also see **ADVICE** listing.

LATIN AMERICA CENTRE
17 Hoxton Square, N1. Tel. 739 2910.
Social and cultural centre for Latin Americans
and British people interested in Latin America.

Ecology

WASTE PAPER etc.
Take old newspaper, magazines, cardboard, clean
rags and car batteries to RESEARCH INTO CHILD
BLINDNESS, Drysdale Street, N1 (just off Hoxton
Street) and get given FREE Green Shield Stamps!
2 stamps per pound of paper.
Monday–Friday 7am–4pm,
All the paper YOU take in goes to help blind
children to see.

SERA (Socialist and Environmental Resources
Association)
North East London branch meets regularly.
Contact Jackie Hutson, 17 Mentmore Terrace, E8.

HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Local group recently formed. For details ring Jim
Read, 802 0122

RECYCLED PAPER
High quality recycled papers (duplicating,
printing, writing or card), personalised stationery
and silk screen printing available from Regenesis,
32 Warwick Road, N 18. Tel. 249 8367.

Workshops

THE WORKSHOP
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.
Learn to print posters, T shirts etc. at non-
commercial rates. Cost of materials only.
Open Tuesday–Sunday 1pm–8pm.

COMET WORKSHOP
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork.
Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee.
Open every weekday.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant,
employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial,
immigration and discrimination problems can be
obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30–7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7–8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9.
Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7–8pm.

SNAGS
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7–8pm. (802 7949).

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7–8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 936 8446.
Open Monday–Friday 10am–5pm (7.30 on
Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs
and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
245 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 985 5244.
TUESDAYS 7–8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and
other problems.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems.
Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates,
landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE
CENTRE**
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare,
housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7–8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE
CENTRE**
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and
social security and community and race relations
problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am–12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2
PROJECT**, **OFF CENTRE** and **FRIENDS
ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on
this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see
LABOUR PARTY under **POLITICAL GROUPS**
listing on this page.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All
food carries levy to support the women's centre
next door (see **WOMEN**) and proposed school at
5 Cazenove Road.

Education

SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
83 Eleanor Road, E8.
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin
America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES
Held at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.
Tel. 254 1193. Monday–Friday 10.30am–4.30pm.
Held at the Wally Foster Centre, E9. Tel. 985 3972.
Every Wednesday 1.30pm.

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES
For details of adult
literacy courses in your
area contact:
Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229
Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.
Pam Lorenz, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House,
Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.
Sue Grandfield, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 254 7763
Mr G.L. Harding, HACKNEY LIBRARIES,
Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street N1. 739 6981.
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE,
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.
Ms J Hewes, HIGHBURY MANOR AEI, Jack
Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4. 226 9190.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street
N1. 739 5431.

Men

DALSTON MEN'S GROUP
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.



Political Groups

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY
**HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE
NEWINGTON**
Constituents advice service at 7pm every
Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local
councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP,
also runs advice service every other Sunday at
11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has
advice service generally on 4th Thursday of
each month.
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel.
800 7430.
**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact
secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill,
N16.

HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday
at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available
2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret
Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of
each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice
service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall,
Bletchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays.
Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays,
Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local
councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.
**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG
SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary
c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY CENTRAL
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday
at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP,
available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC
Councillor, available every other Friday. Local
councillors every Friday.
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG
SOCIALISTS:** for details contact Mrs A Smith,
294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.
HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout
the borough. All welcome.
HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-
raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily
paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/
supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly
newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions
etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group,
Young Communist League and Communist Party
contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8.
Tel. 249 6374.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz
739 9772 for details.

LONDON WORKERS GROUP
For independent militants, working anarchists
and all those who wish to organise for direct
workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact
Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or
ring Dave, 249 7042.

ANARCHY COLLECTIVE
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on
sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also
involved in general anarchist activity. Ring
359 4794 before 8pm.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE
UNDERSTANDING**
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor
or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU
is open to anyone who favours friendship and
understanding between Britain and socialist China.
Meets regularly at Centerprise.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first
Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre,
Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN
HACKNEY GROUP**
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm
at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

Meditation

**PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN
HACKNEY**
Simple, natural, effortless transcendental
meditation technique realizes full creative
potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays at 51 Downs Park Road,
E8. Tel. 254 6280.

ANANDA MARGA
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction
to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm. at
1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

Music and Broadcasts

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.
The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO
Programme schedule:
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows
5pm-7pm Soul Show
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement
(local and international
news, "In Bed with a
Book", funnies and
music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact
Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital
Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.



Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.
Tel. 254 9145.
Information and support for parents with children
below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores
are available every Saturday from 10am–12.30pm.
Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every
month at 8pm. in Centerprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.
Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people
organising play facilities for children. Contact
Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child
care and related topics. Collective is open to
anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254
2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

Transport



**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION
COMMITTEE**

Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public
transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs,
3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9.
Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Fighting for cycle tracks and better provisions for
cyclists. Contact Michael Ellman, 21 Arlington
Square, N1. Tel. 226 1887.

Gays

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS
Collective of gay socialists living and working in
East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1.
Tel. 790 2454.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an
alternative non-profit-making
newspaper produced for the
people of Hackney by a group
of people who live in Hackney.
We have no editor, no share-
holders, no commercial adver-
tising and no party political
backing. HPP is YOUR paper:
anyone who lives or works in
Hackney is welcome to help
us. No-one gets paid by the
paper and all decisions are
made collectively. You can
tell us what you think about
the paper or volunteer to
help us write, produce or
sell the next issue at a
meeting to be held on

Friday 21st April
at 8pm in Centerprise

Or you can contact us by
writing to us at Box 1,
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kings-
land High Street, E.8. Or
ring 249 0311 (evenings and
weekends only.)

HPP is sold through vari-
ous newsgagents and other
outlets throughout Hackney.
If you think your newsagent
would like to sell it, then
please contact us. If you
don't think that you can
spare the time to become more
fully involved, but you
enjoy reading it, and think
more people should read it,
then please get in touch if
you are willing to sell a
few copies to your friends
or neighbours or at meetings.

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to Hackney People's Press and send it
to us at Hackney People's Press, c/o
Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street,
London E.8.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

GOOD BEER IN HACKNEY

NORFOLK ARMS

49 Cecilia Road, E8.
Youngs ordinary and Special, Winter Warmer.
Usually crowded. Traditional haunt of HPP executive members after editorial meetings. Many descisions have been taken here, and then forgotten. Lights go out about ten minutes before closing time, so hang onto your glass in the dark before it gets whisked away by zealous bar staff.

SUSSEX ARMS

Ardleigh Road, N1. Bass and IPA.
Large pub, juke box. Pleasant atmosphere and ususally enough room to get a seta.

Below we present a highly partial and very uncomprehensive guide to some of the pubs in Hackney which serve good beer. Since CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) started the big breweries have made many concessions to the discriminating drinker, and have re-introduced handpumps into many of their houses. This beer is often very expensive, be warned, and not necessarily very drinkable.

The HPP editorial collective are not purists, however, and can face pubs where the beer is not traditionally served if the pub has other features worth commending. We are hoping to do a feature soon on pubs which have good music - if you would like to recommend pubs for that feature or if you want to add further "traditional" pubs to this list then please write to us c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

GRANGE TAVERN

6 Richmond Road, E8. Bass and IPA.
Quite often crowded, on edge of Holly Street estate. Music some evenings. Excellent Sunday lunchtime nibbles.

THREE COMPASSES

99 Dalston Lane, E8. Bass and IPA.
Very small and quiet with pleasant atmosphere.

BULL

Kingsland High Street, E8. Ind Coope Burton.
Usually nearly empty with rather expensive beer.

ROBINSON CRUSOE

177 Green Lanes, N16. Bass, IPA, Worthington E.
Big modern pub. Very crowded, especially in summer, when you can sit outside.

VICTORIA

451 Queensbridge Road, E8. Bass and IPA.
Large and crowded.

ROSE AND CROWN

13 Mare Street, E8. Youngs ordinary and Special.
Small bar.

ROYAL STANDARD

161 Kingsland Road, E2. Youngs ordinary and Special.
Opposite Geffrye Museum. Large pub but not crowded.



ANCHOR AND HOPE

15 High Hill Ferry, E5. Fullers ESB (strongest beer in Britain) and London Pride.

Very small, very overcrowded, but excellent beer (stick to Pride if you're having more than a couple of pints!)

ROBIN HOOD

High Hill Ferry, E5. Courage bitter and Directors.
Large and gimmicky but with pleasant atmosphere.

PRINCE OF WALES

146 Lea Bridge Road, E5.
Youngs Ordinary and Special, Winter Warmer.

Large and very crowded. Often very difficult to get served. Outside in summer is overrun with kids and crisp packets but you can sit in the car park on the canal bank and watch the marine life.

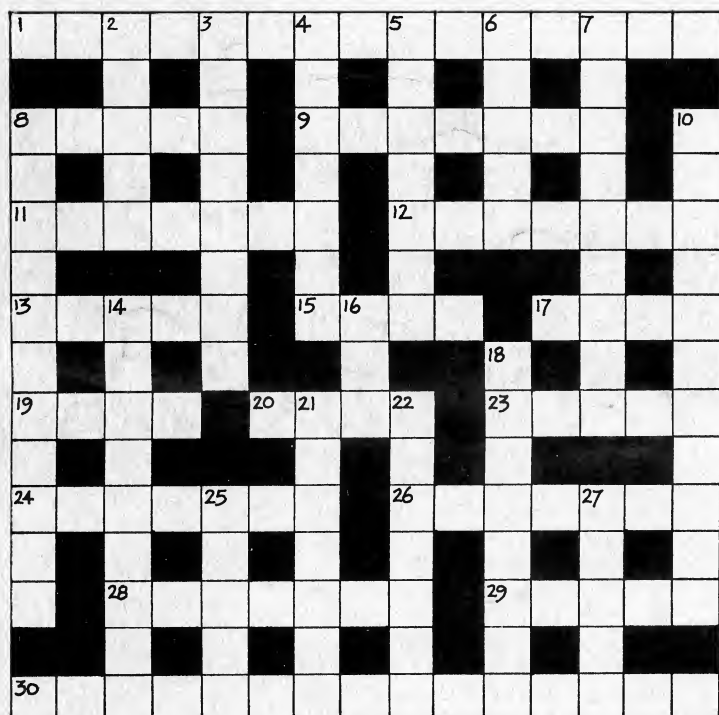
SHIP AGROUND

144 Lea Bridge Road, E5. Bass and IPA.
Next to the PRINCE OF WALES and, by contrast, nearly always almost deserted.



HPP CROSSWORD

No. 3



ACROSS

- Transport for hire locally?(7,8)
- Sign of the Zodiac (5)
- Win back(7)
- West London district(7)
- Look down on(7)
- Fast car(5)
- Fashion(4)
- One of the emerald ones?(4)
- Yarn(4)
- Active ... (4)
- ... Sluggish(5)
- Indistinct(7)
- Land of Uncle Sam(7)
- Oriental(7)
- Form(5)
- There aren't many of these for sale(7,8)

DOWN

- Telegraph message(5)
- Floating menagerie?(5,3)
- Part of ship's mast(4-3)
- Agreed(7)
- Thoroughfares(5)
- Soldier's kit(4,5)
- Wounds(11)
- Letters of authority(11)
- Roman amphitheatre(9)
- Spike of corn(3)
- Wild feline(5,3)
- Make believe(7)
- Felt longing for(7)
- Distressed(5)
- State of 26 across(5)

A prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct entry drawn. Closing date is 21 April. Solution in the next issue. Send entries to HPP, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Solution to HPP Crossword No 2

Across: 1.Propel;5.Licences;9.Offering;10.Rights;11.Interruption;13.True;14.Nitrates;17.Tentacle;19.Late;21.Round the Horn;24.Warmer;25.Endowing;26.Fly Sheet;27.Pay Day.

Down: 2.Raft;3.President;4.Laid to;5.Leg iron;6.Corrupts;7.Night;8.Extroverts;12.Free for all;15.All one way;16.Scot free;18.Element;20.Hold up;22.Names;23.Inca.

Sorry that the answer to 23 down was mistakenly included in the clue! Despite this, a correct solution was submitted by Ms Alison McLean, 9 Forburg Road, N16, who wins the prize - a Centerprise book of her choice.

recipes



This month's recipes are for two types of teabread. They are both very simple to make, not too expensive and taste really delicious. If you have any special recipes you would like us to publish, then write to the Cookery Editor, HPP, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

DATE AND BANANA LOAF

7 oz plain flour
pinch salt
level tsp baking powder
½ level tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 oz lard
1 oz butter
4 oz caster sugar
3 oz chopped dates
2 ripe bananas
1 tablespoon milk

Grease a 1 lb loaf tin well and line the bottom with greasproof paper. Sift the flour, salt, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda together. Rub in the butter and lard. Stir in sugar, chopped dates, mashed bananas and milk. Mix well. Put into the tin and bake for 30 minutes at Regulo 5/375°, then for 30-40 minutes at Regulo 3/325°.

APPLE LOAF

6 oz plain flour
4 oz caster sugar
3 oz marg
2 cooking apples, pureed
small level tsp bicarbonate soda
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp mixed spice
2 oz sultanas
1 oz chopped walnuts

Peel and slice apples and cook to a pulp in very little water. Sieve all the dry ingredients together. Rub in the marg. Add chopped up walnuts and sultanas. Mix together with the apple puree. Put into a well greased and lined 1 lb loaf tin. Cook in the oven at Regulo 4/350° for just over 1 hour.